IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for manufacturing magnetic paint, which comprises: ~~comprising the step of~~

subjecting a concentrated magnetic paint to a preliminary dispersion step in the presence of a dispersion media to obtain a dispersed concentrated magnetic paint;

wherein the concentrated magnetic paint comprises at least one binder, at least one solvent, a magnetic powder, a dispersion agent, and an abrasive;

adding at least one solvent to the dispersed concentrated magnetic paint to obtain a dispersed magnetic paint;

subjecting the dispersed magnetic paint to a main dispersion step and subsequently filtering to obtain the magnetic paint;

wherein the dispersion media have an average particle diameter y (mm) and the magnetic powder has an average maximum diameter x (nm) satisfying the relationship, which is represented by the following formula: $y \leq 0.01\ x$.

~~a mixed solution containing at least a binder, a solvent, and a magnetic powder to a dispersion treatment with a dispersion device by the use of dispersion media through a main dispersion step, wherein the dispersion in the main dispersion step is carried out by the use of dispersion media having an average particle diameter y (mm) satisfying the relationship, which is represented by the following formula:~~

~~$Y \leq 0.01x$,~~

~~with the average maximum diameter x (nm) of the magnetic powder, so as to prepare the magnetic paint~~.

Claim 2 (Original): The method for manufacturing magnetic paint according to Claim 1, wherein the magnetic powder is an acicular ferromagnetic metal powder and the average maximum diameter of 100 nm or less.

Claim 3 (Original): The method for manufacturing magnetic paint according to Claim 1, wherein the magnetic powder is an acicular ferromagnetic metal powder and the average maximum diameter x is an average major-axis length.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method for manufacturing magnetic paint according to Claim 1, ~~Claim 4,~~ wherein the dispersion media used in the main dispersion step have an average particle diameter y of 0.8 mm or less.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method for manufacturing magnetic paint according to Claim 1, ~~Claim 4,~~ wherein the dispersed magnetic paint has a concentration of ~~the mixed solution is within the range of~~ 5 to 20 percent by mass in terms of a dispersed solid based on the total mass of the dispersed magnetic paint. ~~concentration during the main dispersion step.~~

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A magnetic recording medium comprising a magnetic layer provided on a non-magnetic support directly or with a non-magnetic layer therebetween, wherein the magnetic layer is formed through application of the magnetic paint prepared by the manufacturing method comprising the step of subjecting a mixed solution containing at least a binder, a solvent, and a magnetic powder to a dispersion treatment with a dispersion

device by the use of dispersion media through a main dispersion step, wherein the dispersion in the main dispersion step is carried out by the use of dispersion media having an average particle diameter y (mm) satisfying the relationship, which is represented by the following formula:

$$y \leq 0.01x,$$

with the maximum diameter x (nm) of the magnetic powder, so as to prepare the magnetic paint.

Claim 8 (New): The method for manufacturing magnetic paint according to Claim 1, wherein the filtering removes particles larger than 2.0 μm.

Claim 9 (New): The method for manufacturing magnetic paint according to Claim 1, wherein the filtering removes particles larger than 1.0 μm.

Claim 10 (New): The method for manufacturing magnetic paint according to Claim 1, which further comprises the magnetic paint to a substrate.